

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend of the last paragraph of page 8 of the text of the specification as follows:

--PVA for use in the invention may be produced, for example, by hydrolyzing polyvinyl ester prepared through vinyl ester polymerization. Modified PVA obtained through graft copolymerization of PVA on the main chain thereof with smaller than 5 mol % of any of unsaturated carboxylic acids or their derivatives, unsaturated sulfonic acid or their derivatives, or α -olefins having from 2 to 30 carbon atoms; modified PVA obtained through hydrolysis of modified polyvinyl ester prepared by copolymerization of vinyl ester with smaller than 15 mol % of any of unsaturated carboxylic acid or their derivatives, unsaturated sulfonic acids or their derivatives, or α -olefins having from 2 to 30 carbon atoms; and polyvinylacetal resin obtained by crosslinking a part of the hydroxyl group in non-modified or modified PVA with aldehyde such as formalin, ~~butylaldehyde~~ butyraldehyde or benzaldehyde are within the scope of PVA for use in the invention. --

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 of the text of the specification as follows:

-- The comonomer used in producing the modified PVA for use in the invention is essentially for modifying PVA through copolymerization with it, and it may be any ~~one~~ comonomer that does not interfere with the spirit of the invention. The comonomer includes, for example, olefins such as ethylene, propylene, 1-butene, isobutene; acrylic acid and its salts; acrylates such as methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, i-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, i-butyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, dodecyl acrylate, octadecyl acrylate; methacrylic acid and its salts; methacrylates such as methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, i-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, i-butyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, dodecyl

methacrylate, octadecyl methacrylate; acrylamide and its derivatives such as N-methylacrylamide, N-ethylacrylamide, N,N-dimethylacrylamide, diacetonacrylamide, acrylamidopropanesulfonic acid and its salts, acrylamidopropyldimethylamine and its salts, N-methylolacrylamide and its derivatives; methacrylamide and its derivatives such as N-methylmethacrylamide, N-ethylmethacrylamide, methacrylamidopropanesulfonic acid and its salts, methacrylamidopropyldimethylamine and its salts, N-methylolmethacrylamide and its derivatives; N-vinylamides such as N-vinylformamide, N-vinylacetamide, N-vinylpyrrolidone; vinyl ethers such as methyl vinyl ether, ethyl vinyl ether, n-propyl vinyl ether, i-propyl vinyl ether, n-butyl vinyl ether, i-butyl vinyl ether, t-butyl vinyl ether, dodecyl vinyl ether, stearyl vinyl ether; nitrites such as acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile; vinyl halides such as vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, vinyl fluoride, vinylidene fluoride; allyl compounds such as allyl allyl acetate, allyl chloride; maleic acid and its salts and esters; itaconic acid and its salts and esters; vinylsilyl compounds such as vinyltrimethoxysilane; isopropenyl acetate. Of those, especially preferred are .alpha.-olefins, and more preferred is ethylene. Preferably, the degree of modification of the modified PVA for use herein is smaller than 15 mol %. --

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15 of the text of the specification as follows:

-- In producing polarizing films according to the method of the invention, it is important to use PVA films having a width of at least 2 m, preferably at least 2.3 m, more preferably at least 2.6 m, even more preferably at least 3 m. If their width is smaller than 2 m, then the PVA films will significantly neck-in even to around the center part thereof while they are monoaxially stretched, and wide polarizing films of uniform optical performance could can not be obtained from them. If, however, their width is larger than 6 m, the PVA films will be difficult to uniformly monoaxially stretch. Therefore, the film width is

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preferably at most 6 m, more preferably at most 5 m. --